

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>1901-003  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>  | See item 4 below  |
| International application No.<br>PCT/US2005/006374   | International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>28 February 2005 (28.02.2005) | Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>03 March 2004 (03.03.2004) |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated)<br>See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 |  |   |
| Applicant<br>STOEPPELWERTH, Paul, B  |  |   |

|                                     |  |   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1.                                  | This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).  |   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| 2.                                  | This REPORT consists of a total of 10 sheets, including this cover sheet.<br><br>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.   |   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| 3.                                  | <p>This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Box No. I | Basis of the report | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I  | Basis of the report   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V  | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII   | Certain observations on the international application   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |
| 4.                                  | The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).   |   |           |                     |                          |            |          |                          |             |  |                          |            |                            |                                     |           |   |                          |            |                         |                          |             |  |                          |              |   |

|   |   |   |   |                       |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| The International Bureau of WIPO<br>34, chemin des Colombettes<br>1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland<br><br>Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Date of issuance of this report<br/>05 September 2006 (05.09.2006)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">                     Authorized officer<br/><br/> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Ellen Moyse</div> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">e-mail: pt05@wipo.int</td> </tr> </table> | Date of issuance of this report<br>05 September 2006 (05.09.2006) | Authorized officer<br><br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Ellen Moyse</div> | e-mail: pt05@wipo.int |
| Date of issuance of this report<br>05 September 2006 (05.09.2006)   |   |   |   |                       |
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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

REC'D 23 MAY 2005

WIPO

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/US2005/006374

International filing date (day/month/year)  
28.02.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
03.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
B65H75/16, H02G11/02, H01R13/72

Applicant  
STOEPPELWERTH, Paul B.

### 1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the International application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application

### 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

### 3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
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Authorized Officer

Lemmen, R

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US2005/006374

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**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search \_\_ (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ in written format
    - ☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US2005/006374

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or  
Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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**1. Statement**

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Novelty (N)                   | Yes: Claims | 5,12,14     |
|                               | No: Claims  | 1-4,6-11,13 |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Yes: Claims |             |
|                               | No: Claims  | 1-14        |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-14        |
|                               | No: Claims  |             |

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2005/006374

**Re Item V.**

**1 Reference is made to the following documents:**

- D1 : WO 2004/001922 A (SOLET, JO, M) 31 December 2003 (2003-12-31)
- D2 : US 5 924 892 A (FERRACINA ET AL) 20 July 1999 (1999-07-20)
- D3 : US 4 944 694 A (DORN ET AL) 31 July 1990 (1990-07-31)
- D4 : GB 2 308 584 A (JOHN \* ROSE) 2 July 1997 (1997-07-02)
- D5 : US 3 013 105 A (CRAIG BURNIE M) 12 December 1961 (1961-12-12)
- D6 : US 6 329 597 B1 (KALOUSTIAN JOHN) 11 December 2001 (2001-12-11)
- D7 : US 3 776 262 A (FRITSCH U,US) 4 December 1973 (1973-12-04)
- D8 : US 5 596 479 A (CAMPBELL ET AL) 21 January 1997 (1997-01-21)

**2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

**2.1 Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):**

A conduit storage apparatus (1) , comprising:  
a manifold (50) comprising a bottom portion (51-54,87) and at least one top portion (85) attached to said bottom portion (51-54,87);  
at least one ventilation opening (65) in said manifold; at least one conduit aperture (80) in said manifold;  
means for gathering and storing excess conduit (40) within said manifold; and, means (210) for attaching an outlet to an interior surface of said manifold (**cf. claim 1**).

**2.2 Document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):**

A conduit storage apparatus (1) , comprising:  
a manifold comprising a bottom portion (6) and at least one top portion (7) attached to said bottom portion (6);  
at least one ventilation opening (12) in said manifold; at least one conduit aperture (12) in said manifold (*figure 1 and 2 show four openings 12 which serve not only as conduit apertures but also implicitly as ventilation openings*);

means (16,17) for gathering and storing excess conduit within said manifold; and,  
means (25) for attaching an outlet to an interior surface of said manifold (**cf. claim 1**).

**2.3 Document D3** also discloses, similar to the conduit storage apparatus of document D2, all the features of claim 1.

**2.4 Document D4** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A conduit storage apparatus, comprising:  
a manifold comprising a bottom portion (1) and at least one top portion (7) attached to said bottom portion (1);  
at least one ventilation opening (19) in said manifold; at least one conduit aperture (6) in said manifold;  
means (2) for gathering and storing excess conduit within said manifold; and, means (3) for attaching an outlet to an interior surface of said manifold (**cf. claim 1**).

**2.5 Document D6** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A conduit storage apparatus, comprising:  
a manifold comprising a bottom portion (14) and at least one top portion (12) attached to said bottom portion (14);  
at least one ventilation opening (column 4, lines 27-32) in said manifold; at least one conduit aperture (54) in said manifold;  
means (14) for gathering and storing excess conduit within said manifold; and, means (60) for attaching an outlet to an interior surface of said manifold (**cf. claim 1**).

**2.6 Document D5** also discloses, similar to the conduit storage apparatus of document D6, all the features of claim 1.

**2.7 Document D7** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A conduit storage apparatus, comprising:  
a manifold comprising a bottom portion (37) and at least one top portion (24) attached to said bottom portion (37);

A method for protecting a power strip (3) and related cords (4,5), comprising the steps of:

producing a manifold (1,7);

attaching a power strip (3) to an interior surface of said manifold (1,7); plugging at least one electrical device power cord (4,5) into said power strip (3); gathering (2) excess cords; and storing excess cords within said manifold (1,7) (**cf. claim 6**).

- 3.5 **Document D6** discloses (figure 4; the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A method for protecting a power strip (60) and related cords, comprising the steps of: producing a manifold (12,14);

attaching a power strip (60) to an interior surface of said manifold (12,14); plugging at least one electrical device power cord into said power strip (60); gathering excess cords; and storing excess cords within said manifold (12,14) (**cf. claim 6**).

- 3.6 **Document D8** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A method for protecting a power strip (112) and related cords (70a-d), comprising the steps of:

producing a manifold (20,24);

attaching a power strip (112) to an interior surface of said manifold (20,24); plugging at least one electrical device power cord (70a-d) into said power strip (112); gathering excess cords; and storing excess cords within said manifold (20,24) (see figure 5) (**cf. claim 6**).

#### 4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 11

- 4.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 11 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

- 4.1.1 Document D2, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art to the subject matter of claim 11, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):
- A power outlet system (1), comprising:  
a case comprising a bottom portion (6) and at least one top cover (7) attached to said bottom portion;  
a hinge device connecting the bottom portion to at least one top cover (column 2, lines 4-6);  
means for securing at least one top cover to the bottom portion (column 2, lines 7-8);  
at least one power outlet device (25) connected to an interior surface of said case by a means for attaching;  
at least one conduit aperture (12) in said case;  
means (16,17) for gathering and storing conduit within said case;
- 4.1.2 The subject-matter of independent claim 11 differs from the disclosure of D2 in:  
A at least one ventilation aperture in said case (although it can also be argued that openings 12 serve as ventilation openings);  
B and means for skid-resistance attached to said case.
- 4.1.3 The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as  
A to prevent excessive heat production in the case  
B to prevent sliding of the case
- The features A and B of claim 11 constitute an aggregation or juxtaposition of features without producing a synergistic effect.
- 4.1.4 Features A "at least one ventilation aperture in said case" are for example described in document D1 or D4 or D5 or D6 as providing the same advantages as in the present application.
- Features B "means for skid-resistance attached to said case" are for example



described in document D8 (column 7, lines 36-54) as providing the same advantages as in the present application.

The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal design option to include these features A and B in the power outlet system described in document D2 in order to solve the problems posed.

- 4.1.5 Therefore the features disclosed in D2, D1 (or D4 or D5 or D6) and D8 would be combined by the skilled person, without exercise of any inventive skills in order to solve the technically independent problems A and B posed. The proposed solution in independent claim 11 thus cannot be considered inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 4.2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 11 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

**Document D4** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A power outlet system (1), comprising:

a case comprising a bottom portion (1) and at least one top cover (7) attached to said bottom portion;

a hinge device (10) connecting the bottom portion to at least one top cover;

means (9) for securing at least one top cover to the bottom portion;

at least one power outlet device (2,3) connected to an interior surface of said case by a means for attaching;

at least one conduit aperture (6) in said case;

means (2) for gathering and storing conduit within said case;

at least one ventilation aperture in said case (19); and means (13) for skid-resistance attached to said case.

**5 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-5, 7-10, 12-14**

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-14 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT):

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

**PCT/US2005/006374**

The features of these claims, which seem to constitute an aggregation or juxtaposition of features without producing a synergistic effect, are either known per se from **documents D1-D8** (cf. claims 2-4, 7-10, 13,14) as cited in the international search report or suggest slight changes apparatus of claim 1 or system of claim 11 (cf. claims 5 and 12) which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can be readily contemplated in advance.